



# CAPITOL UPDATE

OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Penny Bernard Schaber**

*Serving the heart of Appleton*



Friends,

After only a month, I feel like we are off to a good start. We started by passing three pieces of important legislation: American Jobs Act, Wisconsin First and a bill to extend unemployment assistance. The first two acts are aimed at keeping jobs and business in Wisconsin. More information about the action we have taken so far can be found in this edition of *Capitol Update*.

One of my main objectives as I represent you is to make government more accessible and open. In order to achieve this goal, I will be sending out a monthly edition of *Capitol Update*. It will include an update of our progress, what we are working on, upcoming events, consumer information, contact information for government, and much more. If you know someone that would like to be added to our email list to receive monthly editions of *Capitol Update* please contact [Rep.bernardschaber@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.bernardschaber@legis.wi.gov) or call 608-266-3070.

I am working for and with you. Together, we can move Wisconsin forward. Times are tough and I guarantee you I will work hard for you in Madison. While you might not always agree with my votes or my positions, know that I will always listen to both sides and work with Republicans and Democrats alike for the citizens of Appleton and the great State of Wisconsin.

Penny Bernard Schaber  
State Representative 57<sup>th</sup> District

## Calling All Artists...

I am very excited to announce I will be holding a High School Art Contest that will begin February 16 and run for 6 weeks, judging will be held the week of March 20 to April 3. All high school students are invited to submit art for the contest. The winners' art will be displayed in the State Capitol for one year. The art will be returned after one year. There are no restrictions on the type of art submitted. The art will be judged by a panel at the conclusion of the contest. Teachers at all high schools will be contacted with more information.

## Events

Do you have an event you would like Penny to attend in Appleton? If so please contact the office at 608-266-3070 or email [rep.bernardschaber@legis.wi.gov](mailto:rep.bernardschaber@legis.wi.gov).

## Action Taken

So far we have worked hard to pass legislation to help create and keep jobs in Wisconsin. We passed AB 1 The Wisconsin First Act and AB 2 The American Jobs Act with bipartisan support. We passed AB5 which will save Wisconsin an estimated 10 million dollars a week and lengthen benefits for unemployment.

**AB 1**, The Wisconsin First Act, would direct state taxpayer dollars to support Wisconsin's workers and businesses. The amended bill would recommend that state and local governments spend 20% of their budgets on goods and services in Wisconsin, which will in turn help the local economy. Research has found that investing locally pays off. According to the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business – the voice of small business in the Badger State – studies from California to Texas to Maine have shown that investing locally creates new jobs, generates economic growth and helps local communities. Additionally it puts a mechanism in place to allow the state to track what companies the state does business with, and ensure that those businesses operate in Wisconsin.

**AB 2**, The American Jobs Act, is an important measure that will fight the awful trend of outsourcing that has shipped thousands of our good-paying, family sustaining jobs to countries overseas. The bill would require taxpayer funded state contracts to go to companies that keep their jobs and their businesses in America, unless that good or service cannot be found here.

**AB 5**, a measure that suspended the Wisconsin Supplemental Benefits (WSB) program and shifted unemployment benefits funding to the federal government. It provides taxpayers a savings of more than \$44 million for the Wisconsin Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. This action enables Wisconsinites in need to access extended federal unemployment benefits from the current 8-week schedule to 20 weeks. These extended benefits will provide Wisconsin families with 12 more weeks of breathing room to weather these economic storms.

## Penny's Pointer

The State of Wisconsin might owe you money. Many Wisconsin citizens are owed money from the State and don't even know it. Go to this website to see if we owe you anything:

<http://www.statetreasury.wisconsin.gov/ucpweb/ucpsearch.aspx>